

Health Referral Pathway for Children and Young People to the Sexual Abuse Referral Centre (SARC) known as Oakwood Place

For advice regarding symptoms when unsure whether child sexual abuse

- In working hours:
phone SARC 01277 240620

Child or young person presents to health professional with disclosure or allegation of child sexual abuse (CSA) or with symptoms of sexually transmitted disease

Check: Who has parental responsibility and determine consent.

For all cases the practitioner as the referrer **must** also refer the case to children's social care and the police/Child Abuse Investigation Team once discussed with social care (check SET procedures and local guidance)

Cases not requiring hospital treatment

Acute cases needing hospital treatment e.g. severe trauma/multiple injuries

Practitioner refers according to local area to on call paediatrician to arrange admission to a children's ward or if age appropriate a gynaecology ward but with paediatrician as the lead

Practitioner refers to social care and police. Info sharing/strategy discussion with social care/police/paediatrician

Practitioner arranges for conveyance to hospital by emergency ambulance.

Young Person aged 13 years or over

Practitioner refers to children's social care and police.

Transport to SARC must be arranged with either statutory agency

G4S will be called by police to arrange for examination.

SARC team will ensure follow up/safeguarding info sharing

Child under 13 years of age

Out of hours: contacts available
Police/Social Care
In hours: Contacts available
Police/Social Care and also
Paediatrician and SARC staff

Practitioners must refer to children's social care/police
Transport to SARC must be arranged with either statutory agency

Info sharing/strategy discussion between social care/police and paediatrician. Written referral required from police if not attending with the child. Social worker to provide the report and attend with the child. Paediatricians will share their medical /summary report GP, Safeguarding Provider Team, Social Care and Police, advising if any follow up needed including counselling or CAMHS referral

IF CHILD/YOUNG PERSON NOT BEING ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL ALWAYS CONSIDER:-

Safety of child – discuss with Social Worker whether child at risk of further abuse e.g. if alleged perpetrator is in family home. In this situation the child may be collected from the clinic by Police/Social Worker and taken direct to SARC. Advice can also be sought from Police on 101.

Preservation of Forensic evidence – discuss with Paediatrician/FME at SARC as to when assault thought/known to have occurred to determine urgency of examination at SARC. In acute cases advise parent/carer to retain all clothing/nappies etc.

Emergency Contraception – in pubertal girls